

SPARK PLUG

Vol. 23, No. 6

AUTOMOTIVE HIGH SCHOOL

May, 1963

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER



At this time, as the school year draws to a close, it might be worth looking back to see what gains have been achieved.

Our school has grown in size as it has been doing for the last three years.

It has improved in many ways, however, aside from its growth and size. Thus, our attendance record is better than a year ago and our academic achievement record is rising. The lunchroom has been improved by new furniture, menu bulletin boards and public address system. There are other improvements for it in the planning stage. We are slowly replacing shop equipment and hope to speed this up in the near future. Lastly, plans are being drawn for a comprehensive renovation of the entire school.

It is relevant at this point for you to ask yourself how you have improved. Have you improved your standing in your classes and shop? Have you joined any club or team this year? Have you at the very least been a G.O. member? If you cannot answer positively to all three, you have a fairly clear picture of you should do in your next school year here.

LOUIS AUEREACH
Principal

##

AUTOMOTIVE HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTS 28 STUDENTS MAY 21ST.

The Automotive Honor Society held its Special Assembly Exercises on May 21st. It was an extraordinarily elegant occasion, honored by the presence and brief remarks of Mrs. Edna V. Browley, Assistant Superintendent.

Prior to the presentation of pins to the students elected to the Society, William Medina and Bennie Johnson presented selections which they delivered recently in City-wide speech competition; Clarence Watson received special award for his play in the recent Interscholastic Chess Tournament; Robert Peterson was honored for

(Cont'd on page 3)

ANNUAL CAR SHOW PROMISES TO BE BIGGEST AND BEST

Automotive's 9th Annual Car Show is scheduled to be held on May 28th, from 10 A.M. until 2 P.M.

Mr. Peck reports many more awards and prizes are available this year than ever before. There are also more entrants and contestants in virtually every category. Car Model, Drawing, and Essay contests appear, at this writing, to be attracting most entrants.

Mr. Greenberg is in charge of publicizing the event, and advises that numerous students have been assigned tasks of writing other schools inviting them to send representatives. The off-campus contingent will probably be the largest we have ever had. As usual, there will also be press, radio, and TV coverage of the Car Show.

--Ellis Rackoff

AUTOMOTIVE HIGH WINS PLYMOUTH TROUBLE-SHOOTING CONTEST

A four-man team consisting of Michael Lish, Stan Jasiak, Carl Chiarmonte, and Robert Stoehrer bested competitors from 21 high schools throughout the eastern seaboard to win second place in the 1963 Plymouth Trouble-Shooting Contest, Saturday, May 18th, at Memorial Field, Mount Vernon.

A series of 20 malfunctions (troubles) were placed in brand-new 1963 Plymouths by the Chrysler Corporation provided ample challenge to all participants. The highly trained and skillful aggregation from Automotive, however, was completely undaunted. Not content with their engine's operation even though it started on the first try, they probed further, with careful precision, to find other "planted" malfunctions. Using precision instruments and test equipment, our team made all of the necessary adjustments---in record time---to attain a perfectly performing engine.

Shouting triumphantly and jubilantly, the Automotive duo then boarded their car for the trial

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THE SPARK PLUG

"To further advance interest in school and community."

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It was quite encouraging to read recently in the dailies that an important medical organization has taken a stand on smoking as a significant factor in causing lung cancer.

For obvious reasons this story failed to receive the prominence it deserved. But the facts involved are not new. However, quite a few of our students could benefit from a restatement of the salient points about the link between smoking and health.

First, smoking damages your heart and circulatory system. It is a scientifically verified fact that "a cigarette increases the pulse up to 20 beats per minute and that the condition persists until 20 minutes after the cessation of smoking." It goes without saying that such stimulation can have adverse effects. Some idea of the extent of these effects may be derived from the realization that the mortality of smokers in certain age groups is reported to be approximately double that of non-smokers; that is, mortality from cardiovascular diseases. Indeed, 50 years ago, before smoking became widespread, coronary diseases were to be found almost exclusively in men in their 60's and 70's. Today it is a common occurrence among men in the forties.

As for smoking and cancer, "The sum total of scientific evidence establishes beyond reasonable doubt that cigarette smoking is a causative factor in the rapidly increasing incidence of human epidermoid carcinoma (cancer) of the lung." This was the terrifying conclusion of a committee of seven scientists appointed by the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, the National Cancer Institute, and the National Heart Institute in 1957 to study and evaluate the effects of smoking on health.

TIPS FOR THE SUMMER JOB-HUNTER

A current Bulletin from the NYSES suggests that the following hints may make your job hunt easier---and more successful.

1. Start your search for summer jobs early, before school closes.
2. Begin with your family, relations, friends, and friends of friends. Ask everyone you know about summer job prospects.
3. Then, widen your search to cover your neighborhood stores, movies, etc. If an employer knows you, your chances are better.
4. Next, try calling at the office of plants and companies close by.
5. Attitude, dress, and personality are very important. Tell the employer what you are looking for and why you think you can handle the job.
6. Ask about the Farm Cadet program in your school.
7. Read the Help Wanted ads.
8. If you don't find a job immediately, continue your efforts. In past years, many employers have taken on vacation replacements during these months.
9. If you don't find a paying job, you may gain experience and find satisfaction in volunteer work with community agencies.
10. If you are under sixteen it will be difficult to find summer employment.

Our advice to those of you under sixteen: pick up pin money if you can by doing baby-sitting and chores in your neighborhood; make your summer profitable by learning a skill that will make your job search easier when you are older---learning to type, for example.

---Arthur Johnson

A SUMMER JOB POSSIBILITY

STATE PARKS - Write employment director Long Island State Park or Belmont Lake Park, Box 247, Babylon, Long Island.

##

I would like to correspond with young people between the ages of 17 and 19, from all parts of the world. My interests include reading, sports, dancing, popular records, art, and motor-ing.

I can correspond only in English.

Carole Myers
31, Aldermay Road
Bromley, Kent
ENGLAND

OVERHEARD ON NASSAU AVENUE: One lady driver to her passenger - "The only thing I dislike about parking is that noisy crash."

HONORS ASSEMBLY (From P. 1)

having won second prize in the Essay Contest sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, on the topic: "What Can I Do for My Country?"

The Automotive Track Team, beyond doubt one of the most successful in the history of the school, also came in for the lion's share of plaudits the team so richly deserves. Messrs Praver and Gerginov presented the team to Mr. Auerbach who awarded the impressive and ornate array of trophies.

-Dominick Cataldo, V17

TROUBLE-SHOOTING (From P.1)

run down the track. Their engine purred like a kitten. Even so, our men were cautious, knowing that they could legally turn back if the engine faltered. It didn't, so with a firm conviction of finality, they crossed the line in front of the Judges' Stand.

At this point the judges, a group of dealer service mechanics, examined the vehicle to evaluate the quality of the job performed by this excellent team from Automotive High School. They had removed all the malfunctions and tuned the engine to exact factory standards.

Patchogue High School took 32 minutes for the performance and won first place. Automotive required 34 minutes and won second place in a very tightly run race.

The contest was also one of exactness and precision, as indicated by the fact that Newfield High School, Suffolk County, actually crossed the Judge's Stand first. Their work, however, was not precise enough. The spark tuning and carburetor adjustment were off, so the car was disqualified.

The Automotive Trouble-Shooting team was also honored in the Honors Assembly.

---Frank Banowicz

RIGHT DOWN THE ALLEY

A lady who went bowling for the first time in her life was asked by her husband the next day how she had fared at her new sport.

"My score wasn't very good," she said, "but I'm much better at bowling than I was last summer playing golf."

"How in the world do you figure that?" asked the husband.

"Well, I bowled all afternoon," she explained, "and I didn't lose one ball!"

##

SPARK PLUG EDITORS
ATTEND JOURNALISM EVENT

On Friday, May 3rd SPARK PLUG staffers Frank Banowicz, Robert Bassemir, Joseph Marzitello, and our Faculty Advisor were guests of the Committee of Journalism Education of the New York City Chapters of Sigma Delta Chi and Theta Sigma Phi, National Professional Journalism Societies, and the Overseas Press Club of America, Inc., and the High School Division of the Board of Education. In addition to meeting fellow journalists from other schools throughout the City, our delegation was treated to greetings from Mr. William B. Arthur, Jr., the Managing Editor of Look magazine, and a stirring speech on the responsibility of the academic press by Jackie Robinson, erstwhile Brooklyn Dodger, and now Vice President of Chock Full O'Nuts, who, in cooperation with the Pepsi Cola Company provided a very ample and varied assortment of refreshments for the occasion.

Mr. Walter Cronkite, veteran CBS News Correspondent was scheduled to deliver the Keynote Address, but in virtue of a special assignment was unable to be present. His address, however, was presented on tape. Mr. Cronkite pointed out for the embryonic editors the vast area of opportunity to be found in both electronic and conventional journalism.

Kits of journalistic information were distributed. Two of the school editors present received typewriters as "Headliner Awards" for feature articles.

Several workshop sessions and a large group meeting enabled the audience to glean invaluable insights and techniques from such eminent journalists as Mr. Marshall Newton, Asst. City Editor of the New York Times and Mr. Dwight Sargent, Editor, Editorial Page of the New York Herald-Tribune.

---Frank Bassemir & Joseph Marzitello

*
* LETTERS TO THE EDITOR *

Dear sir:

Why is it that our students, so well-behaved and commendable when they visit a school or museum, forget their manners when they are on the way to school?

The school Motto is: "Always A Gentleman!" This means every day, doesn't it? Not just on Sunday!

--Frank Apollo

AN INTERVIEW WITH MR. DOUGHERTY

Yesterday, I went to the Cunningham Aircraft Corporation to apply for a job as an assemblyman.

Before starting out, I got some pointers from my brother-in-law on how to dress and act when I applied. He told me to dress neatly and try to look my best. In spite of my ample preparation, the night before the interview, however, was a very nervous one for me.

My appointment was for ten the following morning, but I arose at seven. I dressed, ate, and set out for Cunningham Aircraft.

Upon arrival at the plant, fifteen minutes early, I began looking for the Personnel Office, where I scheduled to speak with a Mr. Dougherty.

I found the office easily. With time to spare, I sat and waited. I was about to light a cigarette when I remembered that smoking would be impolite.

Finally, upon being asked to enter Mr. Dougherty's office, I found myself shaking all over. He greeted me, and began by asking what schools had I attended and what special training had I received. I told him about the electrical and mechanical instruction given me at Automotive High School, and he seemed impressed and pleased.

I then inquired about the training given by the company to their employees. Mr. Dougherty replied that my record and background suggested I already knew enough of what they teach. Moreover, the company would give me a test that would indicate how much further training I needed.

Then he asked to see my references. I took out a list of names, addresses, and telephone numbers and gave them to him. Again, he appeared to be impressed by readiness and qualifications. After a brief examination of these documents, he assured me that all that remained was a routine check of my application and references. If everything proved to be in order then I would get the job.

I thanked Mr. Dougherty for his time and consideration. I left with the information that if I were accepted I would begin work the following Monday.

I survived the routine check. Now I am nervously hoping that I shall be able to fill this job as well as Mr. Dougherty thinks I can.

---Robert Peterson, 7V29

REAL GONE CHICKS

An elementary school teacher of our acquaintance told her class: "Did you know that fuzzy chicks grow to roosters and hens with a full quota of feathers?"

"That's funny," piped up one little sceptic, "our chickens don't have feathers. They're in plastic bags."

AUTOMOTIVE HANDBALL TEAM

This year's handball team is rounding out a season which has in many respects been a very rewarding one. Our three veterans did a fine job of orienting newcomers Stacey Johnson, 5V15; Jimmy Levell, 4V7; Eladio Rousset, 6V16; Richard Vega, 4V13; Francisco Nieves, 4V8; Richard Higbie, 4V5; and Jose Rousset, 2V2.

Holdovers from last year were Steven Buttacavoli, Robert Stoehrer, and Robert Meketen.

If all of this year's novices return next year, it will undoubtedly be a tremendously successful season. Johnson and Levell were especially outstanding this year, and are capable of playing either singles or doubles.

Our team, on the whole, will be a young and promising one, and will in all probability be among the strongest contenders for the district championship.

##

THIS YEAR'S CAR SHOW
TO BE THE GREATEST EVER!

If the heading of this article strikes you as unwarranted boasting, we hasten to add that is asserted on less authority than that of one of our teachers who was once a student at Automotive, and knows first-hand the history of our car shows: Mr. Labella.

While assuring us that all of the preceding car shows have excellent, this one will benefit from them while adding something new here and there.

Asked what event he will be in charge of, we learned that Mr. Labella will supervise the trouble shooting.

What is "troubleshooting"? It is a rapid method of finding out what is wrong with a car. When, example, an engine is difficult start, or does not start at all, the alert "troubleshooter" will break the problem down into four possible trouble areas: cranking, ignition, fuel, and compression. The engine is then checked in that order and the procedure followed until the malfunction---or "trouble"---is cleared.

Interested in being a "trouble shooter"? Then see Mr. Labella, Room 239.

---Joseph Marzitello.

MORE OVERSEAS PEN FRIENDS

I am a boy of 17. I collect stamps, exchange photographs and music.

Ababio K. O. James
Labone Secondary School
P.O. Box 079 Christianborg
Ghana.

ASPIRA COMES TO AUTOMOTIVE

Very shortly our school will become one of the dozen or so in the City with an active chapter of Aspira, a dynamic and private educational agency designed to further the aspirations of young Puerto Ricans in New York.

Aspira, which in English means "to aspire", aims to stimulate and help Puerto Rican youth to continue their studies in the professions, technical fields, and in the arts. In performing this function Aspira implements the the objective of the Puerto Rican-Hispanic Leadership Forum, Inc., which, after a fact-finding study of leadership within the Spanish speaking community, decided that in order to develop potential creative resources it would be necessary to equip young Puerto Ricans with the powerful tool of knowledge through education.

Aspira seeks to realize its aim by (1) organizing orientation workshops to give to Puerto Rican youth all pertinent information regarding requirements of admission to colleges and universities, the programs of study for different careers, the possibilities of fellowships, scholarships, loans, and other information significant for a sound educational plan.

(2) Aspira convenes meetings of the parents of these students to motivate them to cooperate with the ideals and desires of their children and make them realize the importance of education today.

(3) Aspira provides a reference library offering information related to educational interests as well as Puerto Rican traditions and culture.

(4) Aspira gives individual help to those students requiring special attention.

(5) Aspira encourages the organization of ASPIRA CLUBS in high schools, community centers, churches, and within other organizations. These clubs provide programs to motivate their members.

Could such an organization fit your background and interests? And could you, in turn, contribute to such a group? If so, advise Jose Tejeda who trying to get our group started.

---Jose Tejeda, 6V23

LIKE, MAN, ON THE GG ?

I daily read the columns
Of the best opinion molders
In all the leading papers---
Over other people's shoulders.

---The Wall Street
Journal

Overheard in the Lunchroom (I won't tell which table): "If it weren't for Edison, we'd see TV by candlelight."

MEET NICK GIORDANO,
AUTOMOTIVE'S HARBINGER
OF SPRING.

Almost any morning before the 8:00 o'clock bell one can spot students and/or teachers proudly admiring the abundant flower beds in front of the school. Indeed, in recent weeks our "garden" has attracted so much attention and praise that we decided to find out just who is responsible for one of the nicest things that could happen to our school. It did not take us long to discover that the accountable party is Mr. Nick Giordano, a member of the Custodian Engineer's staff.

Understandably proud of his resplendent yield, Mr. Giordano provided a guided tour throughout his collection. He showed us pansies, azaleas, daisies, peonies, and many other beautiful flowers which he has cultivated and grown on his initiative and at no little expense just to make the place more beautiful.

"Mr. Giordano," we inquired, "who supports this?"

"Oh," he protested modestly, "it's all my own stuff. I brought it from home all except the azaleas, which were already here."

Any direct questions about his loyalty and devotion to the school as motives for such fruitful efforts so embarrassed Mr. Giordano that we found this line of questioning hard to pursue. We were able to elicit, however, that he finds the appreciation of the students and teachers deeply gratifying. He delights especially in relating the keen interest and encouragement his project is receiving from Mr. Auerbach and from Mr. Courter.

Happily, the school is demonstrating tangible interest. We learned at the time of the interview that a specific policy is evolving, which will result in a continuity of flowers, different flowers for each week of the remaining school year. The school has already obtained some bulbs and by the time this appears, we should be witnessing tulips.

Most of us are unaware of the responsibility of our school to the neighborhood and community. It was interesting to learn that the custodial staff has the responsibility of keeping the school exterior and grounds in character with the neighborhood in which we are located.

At present, our school is outstanding; no other school can compare with our well-kept and beautiful flowers. Mr. Giordano promises that we will have an abundance of roses in time for the Car Show.

---Paul Stendard

CUSTOM CAR CARNIVAL

The Editor and Staff of the SPARK PLUG felicitates Mr. Peck, Faculty Advisor, and the twenty-one teachers and forty five students who constitute the various committees presenting this Ninth Annual Custom Car Carnival.

This year's show features four activities or competitions between classes. These are

Trouble Shooting
Cylinder Head Changing
Tire Changing
Wheel Changing

The three Divisions are

Sophomore
Junior
Senior

Plaques will be awarded to the winners. Shop classes will also receive a plaque.

##

WELCOME, VISITORS....

Mr. Peck advises that visitors to the car show are expected by the busload.

Some of the schools which have indicated that they are sending groups of students to see our exhibition

Plainview, Long Island 40
Hicksville, L. I.20

Many junior high schools will be represented with groups of 20 students. Some large companies and distributors are sending representatives.

This year Zimmer Welding Corp. and Mr. John Kelly, their president, will again set up a display on the grounds outside of the courtyard, where they will demonstrate the latest type of welding equipment.

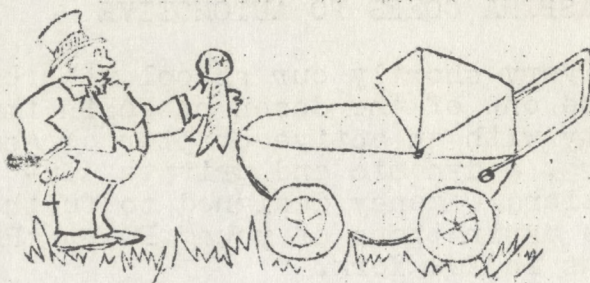
Last year Mr. Kelly contributed two transistor radios. Most likely, he will do the same this year.

###

CADILLAC MOTORS PARTICIPATES

Mr. Apone, Sales Manager of Cadillac Motors is participating in our exhibition this year. Under the supervision of Mr. Schmidt, Cadillac will have a 1963 Eldorado and two 1962 Cadillacs on which they will demonstrate some of their service procedures and techniques. These demonstrations promise to be one of the high points of the show, and will provide rare opportunity for the observation of the most advanced methods of servicing cadillacs.

##

CONTESTANTS TO RECEIVE
MORE PRIZES THIS YEAR

Thus far a dazzling array of prizes have been donated to the Custom Car Carnival, including-

- A 6-volt battery by Lee Tires
- An S & K Socket Set by Edelstein Lacquer Co.
- 4 Shop Manuals by Mr. John Brem
- 1 case of 24 quarts of Shell Premium X-100 oil.
- 1 toy fire engine by Texaco.
- 3 one-year subscriptions to a hot rod magazine.
- 1 tool box and tools.

Winners of all contests will be eligible to draw for prizes.

##

FLASH!! AN OLD TIMER
IS SLATED TO JOIN US

Tilden Brake Company is entering a 1923 Model "T" Ford which has been perfectly restored, and looks better now than it did when brand new. Don't miss it!

##

OUR TEACHERS GET
INTO THE ACT

The Automotive faculty members are entering their cars in a separate Foreign Car Division.

The teachers will be competing for awards and prizes among themselves.

##

AUTOMOTIVE ATTENDANCE
AVERAGES 92.5%.

Attendance at Automotive averaged 92.5% for the week ending May 10th.

Attendance figures are computed daily, then averaged for each week. Our administration expends much time and energy tallying and preserving these figures. The better the attendance, the easier the figures are to compute. Let us make their job a soft touch by maintaining near-perfect attendance for the remainder of the year.

Mr. Carravaggio's class, 7V25, had the highest average for the week---an impressive 98.1%.

---John Harrison

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